

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

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OCTOBER 2016

OU collaborates with award-winning Macomb County Health Department outreach program

A Macomb County Health Department program focused on teaching community youth about emergency preparedness – in collaboration with the Oakland University School of Nursing and Macomb County elementary schools – was recently honored with a 2015 National Health Security Award from the National Association of County and City Health Officials.

The Youth Emergency Preparedness Outreach Initiative – facilitated through the Macomb County Health Department Medical Reserve Corps – was recognized in the Youth Engagement category for teaching more than 2,000 fifth-graders basic survival skills in the event of a public health crisis.

Prior to teaching the elementary students, OU nursing students and clinical faculty received emergency preparedness training through the Medical Reserve Corps during a Nursing 216 Health Promotions course. The nursing students and faculty then traveled to various elementary schools to teach students about emergency preparedness as part of a Nursing 213 Basic Clinical Competencies course.

Jennifer Vajcner was among the OU students who took part in the trainings, which focused on limiting the after-effects of disasters such as tornadoes, floods and earthquakes.

"Emphasis was placed on preparing the general public for a time when basic services such as medical care, food, and medicine may not be readily available in the wake of a disaster," said Vajcner, who recently graduated from OU with a bachelor of science in nursing. "One of the most important topics presented was having a predetermined meeting area should a family member become separated from the group, along with the phone numbers of each family member."

OU students and faculty also stressed the importance of packing an emergency "bug-out bag" with essentials such as a first-aid kit, medications, a light source, non-perishable food and water.



Jennifer Vajcner, right, is pictured with a fellow OU nursing student putting together "bug-out bags" as part of the university's collaboration with the Macomb County Health Department's Youth Emergency Preparedness Outreach Initiative. A bug-out bag contains supplies necessary for survival in the event of a disaster.

Nursing instructor Kimberly Holka initiated OU's involvement in the youth preparedness initiative, noting that it helps fulfill common goals among the partners involved.

"Using this whole community approach enhances disaster resilience for Macomb County," said Holka, who is an active member of the Medical Reserve Corps. "Implementing a family communication plan and putting together emergency kits builds preparedness skills for our fifth-graders and their families. At the same time, the nursing students gain a deeper understanding of specific community needs – and how to address them – when disaster strikes."

The National Association of County and City Health Officials created the awards program last fall to recognize local health departments that have demonstrated significant accomplishments in implementing health security-related initiatives.

Along with the Youth Engagement category, an award was also given in the categories of Healthcare Coalition Building, and Volunteer Recruitment and Training. Honorees were recognized this summer at the association's annual conference.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Oakland University-Beaumont Team Develops a New Method for Using Radiation to Treat Cancer

Biological and Biomedical Sciences graduate student Jonathan Kane recently published an article about the Effect of Irradiation on Tumor Microenvironment and Bone Marrow Cell Migration in a Preclinical Tumor Model (International Journal of Radiation Oncology Biology Physics, Volume 96, Pages 170-178, 2016). This research was a collaboration between faculty at Oakland University, including Thomas Raffel and CBR member Gerard Madlambayan of the Department of Biological Sciences, and Brian Marples and George Wilson of the Beaumont Health System Department of Radiation Oncology. The coauthors include Beaumont Research Assistants Sarah Krueger and Alaa Hanna.

The OU-Beaumont collaboration between Marples and Madlambayan was initiated by an OU-Beaumont Multidisciplinary Research Award. This partnership highlights what can be achieved when OU graduate students work in translational research laboratories at Beaumont. The goal of the research is to test a new radiation therapy protocol for treating cancer. Traditionally, radiation is given in fractions of 2 grays per day (a gray, or Gy, is a unit of radiation dose, equal to one joule of energy deposited in one kilogram of tissue). Kane and his collaborator's modification is to give ten 0.2-gray pulses of radiation separated by 3 minutes each.

Kane graduated with his PhD in April 2016, after defending his dissertation about the Characterization of the Tumor

Microenvironment and Bone Marrow Derived-Cell Migration in Response to Changes in Radiation Delivery. He was mentored jointly by Madlambayan and Marples. Kane now works for the company Xstrahl, a leading designer and manufacturer of x-ray therapy systems for use in cancer, where he is building relationships with their current and future clients to drive the field of cancer research forward.

OU to join Auburn Hills in senior physical therapy study

*By Natalie Broda
Oakland Press, 10/7/2016*

The physical therapy program at Oakland University recently began a program and study to assist senior citizens by assessing if community based physical therapy referrals are viable and to study if preventative physical therapy makes an impact on the health and wellness of the senior, according to a press release from Oakland University.

The city of Auburn Hills Senior Center, who is working in conjunction with the university on the project, will identify five seniors in the area for the study. Those seniors, who must be 65 or older, will receive six at-home physical therapy visits as well as a fall prevention assessment on their home. The participants must be residents of Auburn Hills and must not have been hospitalized or received physical therapy in the last two months.

Ultimately, according to Sara Arena, an assistant professor in the physical therapy program, the university is hoping to receive enough grant funding to expand the program to 40 seniors across Michigan.

Oakland University students help improve food pantry efficiency

When the Open Hands Food Pantry in Royal Oak sought to streamline its operations and improve efficiency, it reached out to Oakland University's Industrial and Systems Engineering Department for help.

"Industrial and Systems Engineering is about seeing the bigger picture," said Dr. Robert Van Til, Pawley Professor of Lean Studies and Chair of the ISE Department. "We look at the systems that are in place, and we find ways to make them better."

As part of their senior design project for the ISE program, OU students Eric Seidl, Russell Bauer and Sam Khajavi have been observing the distribution process at Open Hands Food Pantry for over a month.

With that in mind, the students began looking at the current process – from the flow of people in the building to the number of steps between stations -- and ways the system can be improved.

"We had to figure out exactly what they're doing now, because we can't recommend improvements if we don't have anything to base them off of," Seidl said. "So we've done data collection with cycle times, step counts, etc. to calculate different metrics that we want to base our improvements off of."

Seidl said the the team will continue to review the current processes at Open Hands and make recommendations for improvements through November.

For more information about the ISE senior design project or the department, visit www.oakland.edu/ise

STATE AND NATIONAL HEADLINES

Gov. Brown approves \$22 million to fund entrepreneurship at UCs

University of California campuses have more resources to develop real-world applications for technology after Gov. Jerry Brown approved \$22 million in funding Friday.

Brown signed Assembly Bill 2664, which provides \$2.2 million in one-time funds to the 10 UC campuses to pay for incubator space, equipment, entrepreneurial training, legal services and other entrepreneurial tools.

State assembly member Jacqui Irwin said she thinks the funding will help bring research innovations to the marketplace.

UC President Janet Napolitano said in a statement that she is grateful that state support will help California continue to be a leader in entrepreneurship and innovation.

"We are excited to harness the power of UC research and make an even bigger impact on the California economy and the public good," Napolitano said.

Daily Bruin
October 3, 2016

Hiring, Starting Salaries on the Rise for College Graduates

Good news for college graduates: Hiring is on the rise for students holding every level of degree, and starting salaries for many jobs will be higher than they've been in years.

Those are the top-line results from Michigan State University's annual release of reports assessing recruiting, hiring and salary trends.

The reports for 2016-17 revolve around the largest annual survey of

employers in the nation, covering more than 4,000 employers of all sizes and from major industries including education, finance, manufacturing, health care and social services.

Among many other things, the findings showed that the hiring of college graduates across degree levels is expected to increase by 23 percent, largely as a result of company growth and employee turnover.

For those graduating with bachelor's degrees, a 19 percent spike in hiring is expected.

But the biggest hiring increases will be seen among those who've garnered associate degrees – a sector expected to see a 37 percent increase – and those with a master's degree in business administration, projected for a 40 percent increase.

U.S. News
October 5, 2016

Gallup Gauges Graduate Degree Holder's Views

Three-quarters of recipients of graduate degrees said their graduate program was worth the cost and that they were applying the knowledge and skills they gained in the program in their jobs, according to a Gallup study of Americans with graduate degrees. The survey, which was commissioned and released by Walden University, questions graduate-degree holders who also participated in the Gallup-Purdue Index, which aims to measure and link graduates' sense of well-being to their college experiences.

The new survey examines how graduate-degree recipients are faring in their careers and their views on their graduate programs. Walden, which is part of Laureate Education

and offers graduate programs online, commissioned Gallup to survey its own graduates and compare them to the national sample and to a cohort of students who got graduate degrees in which at least half of the course work was done online.

Inside Higher Ed
October 13, 2016

Missouri pushes initiative for quicker graduation

In an attempt to address college affordability, Missouri rolled out a new initiative Wednesday morning, flanked with the Legislature's support.

The "15 to Finish" initiative encourages college students to take 15 credit hours each semester, increasing their odds of graduating on time and leaving college with less debt.

The Missouri Department of Higher Education is tag teaming with the national nonprofit group Complete College America to provide Missouri's two- and four-year colleges with promotional materials and ideas to personalize the initiative for each campus.

St. Louis Dispatch
October 13, 2016

Court orders \$18M released to Ky. universities

After months of litigation, Kentucky's public universities and colleges are slated to receive nearly \$18 million this week that Gov. Matt Bevin tried to cut from their budgets earlier this year.

The schools should get their respective shares of the funding within three days, according to an order Franklin Circuit Judge



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State and National Headlines *CONTINUED*

Thomas Wingate signed Monday. Lawyers for both Bevin and Attorney General Andy Beshear, whose battle over the university cuts reached the Kentucky Supreme Court, agreed to the order Wingate approved.

Beshear's lawsuit against Bevin culminated last month in a 5-2 ruling by the state Supreme Court. The justices decided the governor could not legally order the financial reductions he had imposed on Kentucky's universities. Bevin did not ask the court to reconsider its decision.

Courier-Journal
October 17, 2016

Schools can tap veterans on campus to better understand military culture, competencies and skills

Like many employers, higher ed institutions are reaching out to military veterans to fill skilled positions. Military service offers rich opportunities for individuals to develop a wide variety of skills that translate to well-paying jobs in the civilian world.

However, deciphering a veteran's work history is tricky. Resumes may be cluttered with military jargon, acronyms or technical certifications. Without a military background, it's difficult—if not impossible—for a civilian to assess a veteran's abilities.

Still, recruiters can implement effective tactics to not only understand military culture, but also to better translate skills and competencies to give veterans a fighting chance at jobs.

University Business
September 26, 2016